

# Bond Development Guiding Principles and Process

**Capital Planning Office**

*City Council Briefing  
December 8, 2011*

# Topics to be Covered Today

- Council Directive
- Bond Election Advisory Task Force Charge
- Imagine Austin vision summary
- Guiding Principles for the Bond Development Process
- General Approach and Methodology
- Community Engagement
- Next Steps

# Council Directive

- Oct. 6, 2011 Council Resolution
- Established Bond Election Advisory Task Force (BEATF)
- Imagine Austin sets vision for Austin development and coordinated investment.
- Timely and adequate investment in infrastructure to accommodate growth.
- Future bond election should advance the vision set out by Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan.
- Funding priorities recommended by City staff.

# Task Force Charge

- Develop recommendations for projects for potential bond funding that will advance the vision of Imagine Austin
- Work within the scope of a needs assessment and funding priorities to be recommended by City staff
- Attend City Council public briefings on bond-related information
- Conduct regular open and posted meetings to maximize citizen engagement
- Ensure recommended projects have adequate funding
- The Task Force will dissolve upon City Council's adoption of the ballot language for the bond election.

# The Vision of Imagine Austin

- Austin is Livable
- Austin is Natural and Sustainable
- Austin is Mobile and Interconnected
- Austin is Prosperous
- Austin Values and Respects Its People
- Austin is Creative
- Austin is Educated

# Imagine Austin: Priority Programs

- An update of City rules for land uses.
- Improved transportation options for cars, transit, bikes and walking.
- A network of parks, trails, waterways and natural areas.
- Manage long-term water resources.
- Grow and invest in Austin's creative economy.
- Affordable housing throughout Austin.
- Education and talented workforce.
- Create a “healthy” Austin program.

# Why Guiding Principles?

- Overarching goals, priorities for Bond development
- Connect to vision and priorities established by Imagine Austin and Council resolution.
- Reflect best practices in capital improvement planning
- Provide a framework for BEATF to review projects/programs and develop recommendations.

# Guiding Principles

- I. Provide for adequate infrastructure and facilities to maintain City services.
- II. Support new investment reflecting the values and priorities of the City as identified in the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan and related plans.
- III. Make investments in new mobility capacity, including an initial segment for an urban rail system.
- IV. Promote a sustainable community and high quality of life.
- V. Identify projects that are cost effective, leverage other funding sources and maximize the benefit of capital investment.
- VI. Consider the balance of priorities in proposed bond package.

# Guiding Principles

- I. Provide for adequate infrastructure and facilities to maintain City services.**
  - Near-Term Capital Projects (Level 1)
  - Departmental Service Priorities (Level 2)

# Guiding Principles

## **Near-Term Capital Projects (Level 1) Criteria**

- Required by state or federal law, legal judgment, court order, regulatory mandate.
- Remedies or prevents a serious hazard that threatens public health, safety or security.
- Infrastructure failure occurring or high possibility in the immediate future.
- Project deferral will lead to significant degradation of infrastructure that compromises delivery of City services.

# Guiding Principles

## **Departmental Service Priorities (Level 2)**

- Directly implements an adopted departmental plan or policy.
- Accomplishes or makes significant progress toward achieving department business goals and priorities.
- Directly addresses Horizon Issues identified in a department's Business Plan.
- Produces a tangible improvement to service delivery and/or access to service.

# Guiding Principles

## **II. Support new investments reflecting the values and priorities of the City as identified in the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan and related plans.**

- Advances priority programs established in the draft Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan.
- Priority projects established in related neighborhood plans and other small area plans adopted by Austin City Council.
- Furthers a specific Council directive or resolution
- Advances a specific strategy or project identified in a regional planning effort in which the City of Austin participates.

# Guiding Principles

## **III. Make investments in new mobility capacity, including an initial segment for an urban rail system.**

- Supports identified strategic mobility and multi-modal transportation priorities.
- Takes into account priorities as outlined in:
  - Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan
  - Strategic Mobility Plan
  - Envision Central Texas
  - CAMPO 2035 Plan
- Addresses economic vitality and sustainability priorities.

# Guiding Principles

## **IV. Promote a sustainable community and high quality of life.**

- Economy
- Environment
- Society and equity

# Guiding Principles

## **Economy**

- Facilitates private investments or other activities that produce jobs, attract new companies or retain and grow local businesses.
- Integrates or leverages investments in local innovation and emerging technology.
- Addresses more than one service delivery need within a department or across multiple departments' business needs.

# Guiding Principles

## Environment

- Demonstrates an innovative approach to more sustainable, environmentally friendly business practices and service delivery.
- Exceeds minimum sustainability performance goals.
- Directly advances a specific measure identified in the Austin Climate Protection Plan for greenhouse gas reduction and mitigation, climate adaptation, reduced water or energy demand, alternative energy or transportation.
- Makes critical assets or services more resilient so they can adapt to and recover from disruptive events.  
Examples include use of natural systems such as green infrastructure, decentralized or renewable strategies.

# Guiding Principles

## **Society and Equity**

- Provides infrastructure or services to a geographic area or population that has been historically underserved. Results in more equitable distribution of resources and environmental effects on community health and well-being.
- Contributes directly to the preservation or vitality of cultural and historic assets, sense of place or neighborhood character.
- Contributes directly to appropriate mix of uses, walkability, complete neighborhoods, proximity to goods, services, housing, transit and employment.

# Guiding Principles

## **V. Identify projects that are cost-effective, leverage other funding sources and maximize the benefit of capital investment.**

- Decreases future operating and maintenance costs.
  - Projected O&M impact data will be compiled, considered.
- Results in avoidance of future operating costs.
- Leverages external (public or private) funds from other sources, reducing the City's financial commitment.
- Provides for increase in City revenues or prevents anticipated loss of City revenues.
- Prevents need for future additional capital costs.

# Guiding Principles

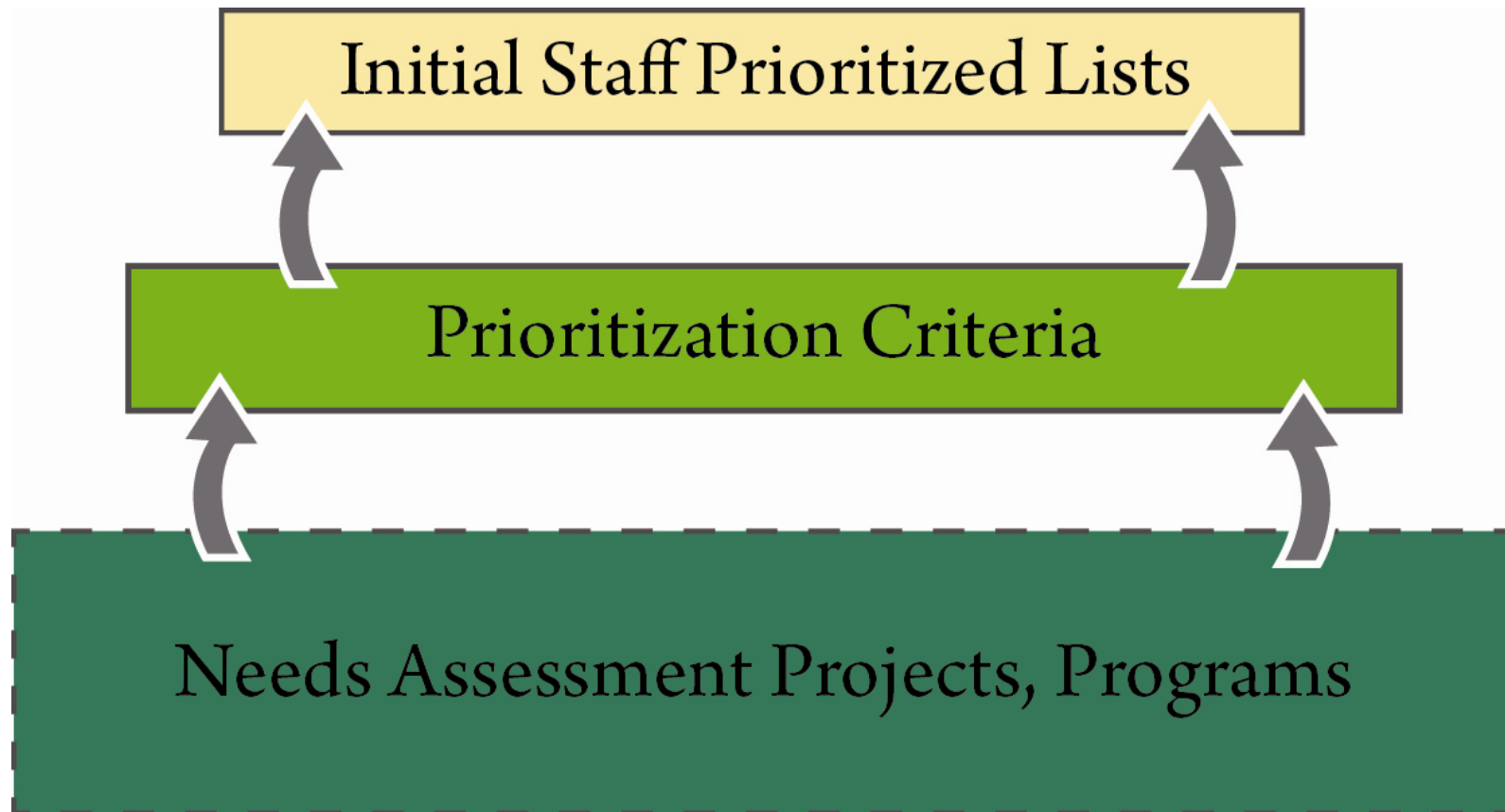
## **VI. Consider the balance of priorities in proposed bond package.**

- City bond capacity and impact on city of Austin taxpayers.
- Existing services vs. new investment priorities.
- Geographic distribution of investments.
- Impact on future City operating and capital budgets.
- Sufficient funding for recommended projects.
- Anticipated long-term benefit for community.

# Application of Guiding Principles

- Council considers, approves Guiding Principles.
- Staff applies guiding principles and associated criteria to Needs Assessment projects/programs.
- Create prioritized lists of projects/programs
- Staff presents prioritized lists to BEATF for consideration.
- BEATF Consideration of staff prioritized lists.

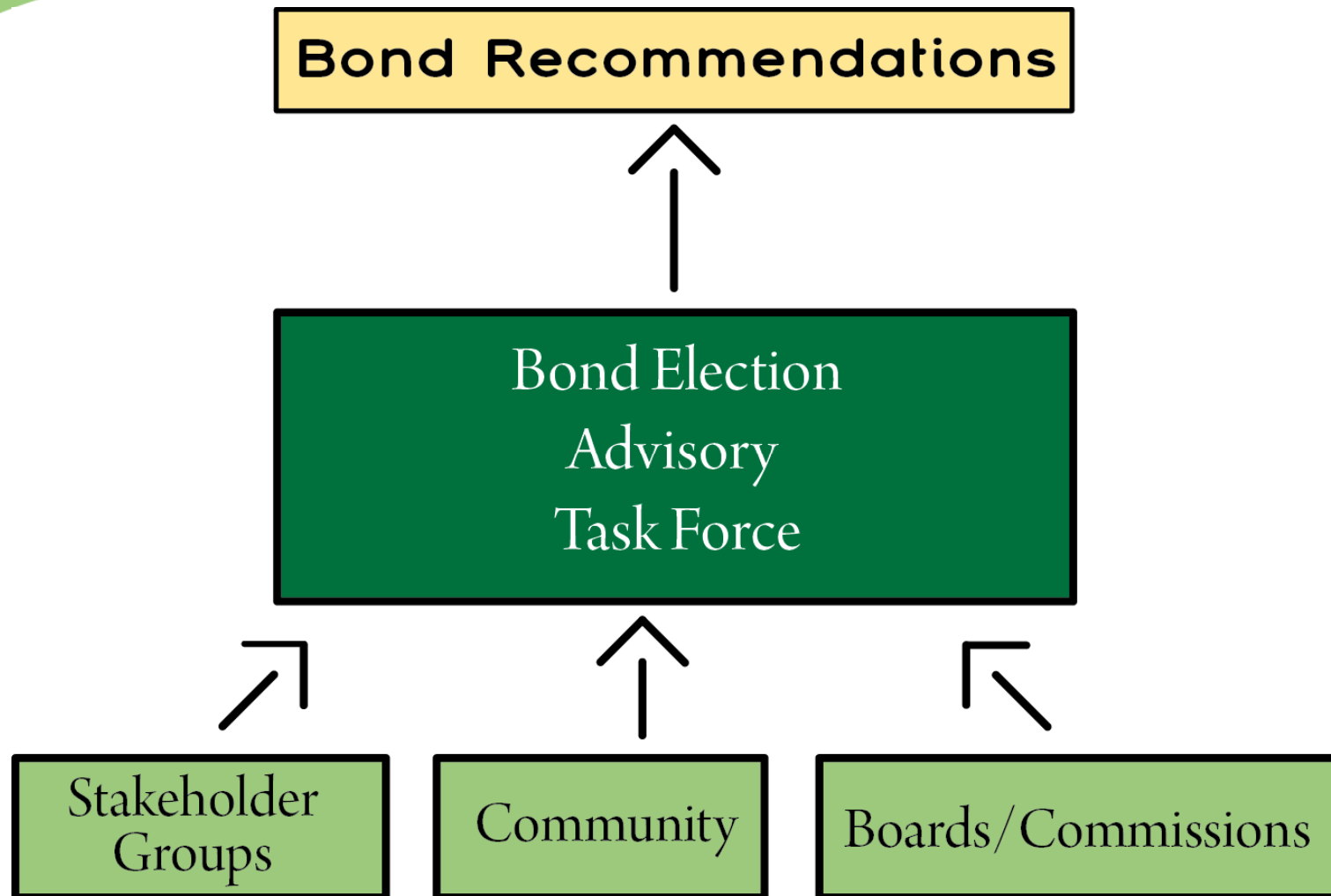
# Methodology Overview



# Community Engagement

- **Allow all Austinites to provide input and participate in the bond development process.**
  - Bond Election Advisory Task Force serves as central point of contact for input from community and Boards/Commissions.
    - In-person at BEATF meetings.
    - At special events.
    - Online through SpeakUpAustin.
    - Website updates: [www.austintexas.gov/cip](http://www.austintexas.gov/cip)

# BEATF Process



# Next Steps

- **December 14:** Initial organizational meeting of BEATF
- **December 15:** Needs Assessment/Debt Capacity briefing to Council
- **January:** Staff formulation of initial staff prioritized lists; BEATF organization; begin public input.
- **February:** Staff provides initial prioritized project lists to BEATF
- **February to April:** BEATF consideration of prioritized project lists; receives input from public, other Boards and Commissions.
- **May/June:** BEATF provides recommendations; staff recommended-bond package to Council
- **August** – Council action to authorize bond election, set date, and approve final ballot language

# Questions & Discussion